

Oct. 19, 1890.

Dear Payson,

This morning, just as I got fixed to go to church, it began to rain hard: so I made up my mind to stay at home and write a letter or two. I meant to call once more before I came home, but things happened so that I could not. Still, as it is, I think I ^{do it} ~~proved~~ as neighborly as you; though I expect you will say that I have more spare time than you. Now, Payson, I do not know, but I have an idea that with all your courage you are afraid of girls, and so you kept

away because my sister was
with me. I will own that I
myself am afraid of some girls.
I have seen a few girls so pretty,
well-dressed, bright in talk, that I
have felt like a regular coward
before them: if they had spoken to
me, I do not know as I should
have been able to open my mouth.
You'll laugh no doubt, and it is
easy to laugh at a distance, but
I should like to know how you
would feel with a pair of shining
eyes looking through your very
soul. The mischief of it is that
girls who can look like flowers
often spoil their looks by quick tem-
per, sharp words, pride, vanity,

gossiping, idleness, and selfishness, things, you know, which men are free from. Men may not be so good-looking as women, but how much better in disposition than women they are! Now I must sober down and tell you a little of what goes on with me. So far I have been to two political meetings. Both were held in Boston; and one was a meeting of Democrats, the other a meeting of Republicans. You see, I am willing to hear each side speak for itself, and then — I vote the Republican ticket. I may be mistaken, but I think the Republicans have more good and able men than the Democrats. When you take

11.00
such men as Maine sends to Congress
James S. Blaine and Thomas B.
Reed, I do not think you can find
their match on the Democratic side.
Grover Cleveland is idolized by
many Democrats, and no one can
deny that he is a man of honesty,
strong will, and great industry; but
that he is an able man, as Mr.
Blaine is an able man, I can't
see in any of Mr. Cleveland's speeches
or letters. But maybe I am prejudiced.
I know Uncle Reuben would not want
to listen to any talk against Mr. Cleveland,
but I do not think I have said anything
to hurt any one's feelings. But I must
close my letter. We have one grape-vine
that has climbed to the top of a cherry-tree,
and there are still a good many grapes on
it. Don't you think they hold on well? I hope
to hear from you as to what you are doing. With
regards to all the folks, Yours, E.C. M.